



Why the rush on voter ID?

What's the big hurry for the voter ID law? All they have to do, to prove it was not politically motivated, is wait until after the November elections to put it into effect.

Doris Perry, West Hempfield Township

Why the rush on voter ID?

The July 20 newspaper contained two pages that, when folded together, formed a paradoxical puzzle.

A front-page headline read, "Oregon Pike got it right," and flaunted the smartness in Lancaster County's growth planning, with farms pushed to the far-away space.

The back page of Entertainment Lancaster featured Landis Valley Farm Museum, Oregon Pike.

Quoting James Cowhey, Lancaster County Planning director, "And it's always a nice thing when you go from the city to the country and they actually feel like two different places."

Mr. Cowhey's leadership is like following a man who is driving forward while looking through a rear-view mirror.

Commuters don't want to have to go for a drive to find a farm. Picking up fresh farm produce should be an integral part of our natural lives, a value to hold close and benefit worth our insistence upon.

Community-supported agriculture and organic farms provide chemical-free ultra-fresh produce, flowers for the dinner table, interaction with community, a place for children to romp and a relationship with the farmer possibly more so than any other business owner in the neighborhood.

A farm is productive green space that creates jobs and income. Being able to stop at a farm on the drive home reduces fuel consumption. Fields counterbalance the reflective heat and barrier to rainwater absorption of concrete and asphalt.

County planners envision large farms only and Lancaster Farmland Trust protects only large farms. It is the small opportunities, the small farm businesses, especially, that are truly endangered and, because of all the above, must be protected and included within development planning.

Planners with developers are pushing small farms out of existence through cost per acre. We are developing our way toward all smaller farms within our community becoming museums, as the one along Oregon Pike.

Linda Strauss, Manor Township